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Work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention

Work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention

Report of the Executive Director**

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1-3	3
II.	Meeting new demands	4-17	3
	A. Normative support	5-8	3
	B. Analytic support	9	4
	C. Operational support	10-11	4
	D. The institutional framework	12-17	4
III.	Ad Hoc Committee for the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	18-22	5
	A. The promotion of the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto	18-19	5
	B. Work of the Group of Experts on the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Explosives by Criminals and Their Use for Criminal Purposes	20-22	6

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IV.	Negotiation of the draft United Nations Convention against Corruption and other steps to combat corruption	23-30	6
V.	Prevention of terrorism	31-45	7
	A. Collecting and disseminating information	39-44	9
	B. Global crime trends	45	9
VI.	Technical cooperation activities	46-96	9
	A. Strategic orientation	46-51	9
	B. Mobilization of resources	52-54	12
	C. Global programme against corruption	55-67	12
	D. Global programme against trafficking in human beings	68-85	16
	E. Global programme against organized crime	86-93	18
	F. Projects on crime prevention and criminal justice reform	94-96	20
VII.	Coordination of activities with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network	97-99	20
VIII.	Strategic management by the Commission of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme	100-106	20
IX.	Programme questions	107-109	21
X.	The way ahead	110	22

Tables

1.	Technical cooperation projects funded by the Centre for International Crime Prevention, 2001	10
2.	Contributions and pledges to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, 2001	13

Figure

	Contributions and pledges to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, 1997-2001	14

I. Introduction

1. The catastrophic terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 represented a quantum leap in the manifestation of terrorism and shocked the international community. The global response has clearly demonstrated that such unprovoked attacks on civilians are unacceptable by any standards. The United Nations has expressed its solidarity with the United States of America on every level, from the General Assembly and the Security Council to the level of the staff.

2. The tragic events of 11 September have radically altered perspectives on security. Citizens no longer feel threatened primarily by military attacks. Terrorism and other crimes such as organized crime, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, money-laundering and corruption are now universal concerns. Organized criminal and terrorist groups do indeed threaten human security on a large scale in many parts of the world. To the thousands of victims of terrorism, the hundreds of thousands of victims of organized crime must be added. Through the corruption of politicians, public officials and judges, organized criminal and terrorist groups target the very foundations of democracy and of the rule of law. By undermining State institutions, they weaken both the duly constituted authorities and civil society at large, creating environments conducive to the execution and expansion of their criminal plans.

3. A strong consensus has emerged that such global security threats must be tackled expeditiously, comprehensively and with a lasting commitment. It is also generally understood that international cooperation is key to the success of any such action. Ways must be found to better integrate the poorest segments of the population into the world economy and to ensure a more balanced distribution of wealth. Arrangements for cross-border criminal justice cooperation against transnational criminal groups and their financial and social support structures must be strengthened. The political will to overcome traditional obstacles to international criminal justice cooperation is now universally in evidence.

II. Meeting new demands

4. The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme is the world's premier institutional framework for criminal justice cooperation. Its policy-making body, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and its secretariat, the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP) of the Secretariat, are confronted with an unprecedented demand for normative, analytical and operational support for concerted action against global crime.

A. Normative support

5. In the normative field, global action requires new legal provisions in national law and new international legal instruments. In domestic legislation, a balance must be struck between the need for effective preventive action against incipient manifestations of global threats on the one hand and the protection of human rights and civil liberties on the other. Guidance can come from model laws and existing United Nations standards and norms for crime prevention and criminal justice.

6. At the international level a major step forward is needed in effective criminal justice cooperation. The conventional institutions and mechanisms for cross-border cooperation in law enforcement and prosecution are generally regarded as inadequate. It has been commented that States are fighting a twenty-first-century battle against global criminal threats with obsolete, nineteenth-century legal tools. In international criminal law a new balance must be struck between the need to counter supranational criminal threats and the sovereignty of States. Law enforcement agencies and judiciaries across the world must be allowed, within approved legal frameworks, to communicate and cooperate with their counterparts in other countries, in order to be more effective. The European Union has set a telling example with the adoption of the European arrest warrant for several types of crime.

7. The existing United Nations conventions against terrorism, in particular the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (General

Assembly resolution 54/109, annex), should be signed, ratified and implemented by many more Member States. The entry into force of that and other anti-terrorist conventions must be actively promoted. The newly adopted United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the "Organized Crime Convention") and the three protocols thereto (General Assembly resolutions 55/25, annexes I-III, and 55/255, annex, respectively) are no less important tools in the fight against transnational crime. Funds for terrorist activities are often raised through criminal activities such as drug and arms trafficking, kidnapping, extortion and money-laundering. Such supporting criminal activities are fully covered by the Organized Crime Convention, whose provisions on law enforcement cooperation, mutual legal aid and extradition can facilitate criminal justice action against terrorist groups involved in organized crime. Several provisions for action in the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition are also of direct relevance.

8. The Centre has embarked on a comprehensive pre-ratification assistance programme for the Organized Crime Convention and the protocols thereto. The programme comprises high-level seminars, assessments of legislative and institutional needs, technical round tables and legal advisory services. Subregional seminars have been organized in Burkina Faso, Guatemala, the Islamic Republic of Iran, South Africa and Trinidad and Tobago. The Centre has made proposals to the donor community for resources to undertake a similar programme in relation to anti-terrorist conventions.

B. Analytic support

9. Reliable and timely information is key to the success of international cooperation. Collection and exchange of data on trends in organized crime and on best practices in fighting it are provided for in the Organized Crime Convention. The Centre has laid the groundwork for systematic collection of data on organized crime and terrorism and its various links through the development of databases on terrorist incidents, terrorist groups, organized crime cases and flows of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Those databases will be developed further and used for policy-oriented analyses. The Centre has started to prepare a second world report on crime and criminal justice, which will include data on terrorism and corruption.

C. Operational support

10. The international community cannot be satisfied with the mere reinforcement of international criminal law on the books. What is needed first and foremost is more effective international criminal law in action. In the Organized Crime Convention, special provisions for technical assistance and training and for technical cooperation with developing countries are of foremost importance. Technical cooperation has become part of the core business of the Centre. The number of technical cooperation projects carried out by the Centre has grown significantly. Country projects against trafficking in persons and corruption in, for example, Colombia, Hungary, Nigeria, the Philippines, Romania and South Africa are starting to bear fruit.

11. The Centre's technical cooperation activities are focused at present on a limited set of priority areas such as organized crime, trafficking in persons, corruption and juvenile justice. They should be expanded to include criminal justice reform and institution-building. Technical assistance modules are being developed and pilot tested in country projects. Examples are modules for launching national strategies against corruption, for improving judicial integrity, for capacity-building of specialized anti-mafia units and for upgrading juvenile justice systems. Many of the modules and tools, which are of obvious relevance for the fight against global criminal threats and terrorism, could efficiently be further developed and adapted with that aim in mind.

D. The institutional framework

12. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice has stepped up its activities. Over the past several years it has established a commendable record as a legislative body. On its recommendation, four complex international legal instruments have been negotiated in a relatively short period of time. The Ad Hoc Committee for the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime will probably

be called upon next year to draw up rules of procedure for the Conference of Parties to the Convention. Subsequently, the Conference will start its work of promoting and reviewing the implementation of the Convention and the protocols thereto.

13. At its resumed tenth session in September 2001, the Commission recommended to the General Assembly the terms of reference for a convention against corruption.[1] At the same resumed session, agreement was also reached on plans of action[2] for the implementation of and follow-up to the commitments undertaken in the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-First Century (General Assembly resolution 55/59, annex). Those plans of action provide a framework for the work ahead in the coming years.

14. The plan of action against terrorism, adopted just days before the events of 11 September, has acquired a new political significance. That is also true for the other plans of action, not only because of the links between terrorism and transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and money-laundering, but also because there is a much greater perceived need for more effective action on the part of the entire criminal justice system. The Centre is called upon to support the proposed national action of Member States in many ways. The plans of action also propose several tasks for the Centre itself under the subheading "International action", for which the Commission will have to provide adequate follow-up for their implementation.

15. The Commission and the Centre are faced with a full and challenging agenda. They also face high expectations on the part of the international community.

16. The Centre has built up expertise in the normative, analytical and operational aspects of the fight against global criminal threats. Its professional staff, although small and overstretched by existing mandates, has been focusing its work on clear priorities and improved its capacity to design and carry out technical assistance through integration of functions, also in response to the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. It will be well placed to make a more substantial contribution to the fight against global criminal threats if its resources are strengthened.

17. The Centre stands ready to meet its challenges, in close cooperation and synergy with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). In order to be successful in that endeavour it requires policy guidance from the Commission. It also requires the full support of Governments for the strengthening of its regular and extrabudgetary resources in order to become more effective and responsive to the needs of Member States.

III. Ad Hoc Committee for the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

A. The promotion of the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto

18. Following the successful completion of the Convention and two of the protocols thereto and their adoption by the General Assembly by its resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime successfully completed its work on the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition at its eleventh session, held in Vienna from 26 February to 2 March 2001. The General Assembly adopted the Protocol by its resolution 55/255 of 31 May 2001 and the Protocol was opened for signature at United Nations Headquarters on 2 July 2001. At the time of writing, 25 States and the European Community had signed the Protocol.

19. Following the High-Level Political Signing Conference, held in Palermo, Italy, from 12 to 15 December 2000 (see A/56/380), the Centre for International Crime Prevention has assisted and supported the efforts of countries to ratify the new instruments. A series of regional and subregional seminars have been conducted to review with Member States the legislative and administrative steps needed for the ratification of the instruments in the context of their respective domestic legal systems. Details on the activities of the Centre in that regard are contained in

the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.15/2002/10), prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/120 of 19 December 2001.

B. Work of the Group of Experts on the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Explosives by Criminals and Their Use for Criminal Purposes

20. In its resolution 54/127 of 17 December 1999, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, from within existing or extrabudgetary resources, to convene an expert group of no more than 20 members, with equitable geographical representation, to prepare a study on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives by criminals and their use for criminal purposes; also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the results of the study; and directed the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, following the completion of the study, to consider the possible development of an international instrument on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives.

21. The Group of Experts met in Vienna from 12 to 16 March and from 18 to 21 December 2001. At its first meeting, it reviewed existing documents and instruments dealing with explosives, prepared a survey questionnaire for distribution to Member States and undertook to conduct additional research in several key areas. The questionnaire was distributed on 4 July 2001 and when the results were analysed, on 10 November 2001, 35 States had provided replies.

22. At its second meeting, the Group of Experts finalized its study on the basis of the replies and the experience of its members. It concluded that, while explosive-related incidents constituted a significant crime problem in some individual States, most offences did not involve organized criminal groups within the ambit of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and, of those which did involve such groups, relatively few also involved transnational elements. As a result, it made no recommendation regarding a possible international instrument. It did, however, make a number of recommendations concerning domestic explosive-related problems. The report of the Secretary-General on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives by criminals and their use for criminal purposes will be before the Commission at its eleventh session (E/CN.15/2002/9) and the results of the study by the Group of Experts will be presented in an addendum to that report (E/CN.15/2002/9/Add.1).

IV. Negotiation of the draft United Nations Convention against Corruption and other steps to combat corruption

23. In its resolution 55/61 of 4 December 2000, the General Assembly recognized that an effective international legal instrument against corruption, independent of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, was desirable; and decided to begin the negotiation of such an instrument in Vienna at the headquarters of the Centre for International Crime Prevention of Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention.

24. In its resolution 55/188 of 20 December 2000, the General Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General, as contained in resolution 55/61, to convene an intergovernmental open-ended expert group to examine and prepare draft terms of reference for the negotiation of a future legal instrument against corruption.

25. Pursuant to resolutions 55/61 and 55/188, the Intergovernmental Open-Ended Expert Group to Prepare Draft Terms of Reference for the Negotiation of a Future Legal Instrument against Corruption met in Vienna from 30 July to 3 August 2001. Taking into consideration the relevant report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.15/2001/3 and Corr.1) and the recommendations of the Commission at its tenth session (see E/2001/30 and Corr.1), the Intergovernmental Expert Group produced draft terms of reference for the negotiation of the new international legal instrument and recommended their adoption to the General Assembly, through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Economic and Social Council (see A/56/402-E/2001/105, para. 5). At its resumed session, held in Vienna on 6 and 7 September 2001, the Commission approved the draft terms of reference and forwarded them to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, for consideration and action.[2]

26. By its resolution 56/260 of 31 January 2002, the General Assembly adopted the draft terms of reference for the ad hoc committee for the negotiation of a United Nations convention against corruption; decided that the ad hoc committee should negotiate a broad and effective convention, which, subject to the final determination of its title, should be referred to as the "United Nations Convention against Corruption"; requested the Committee to take a multidisciplinary approach and to consider an indicative list of elements, set out in paragraph 3 of the resolution; and decided that the ad hoc committee should meet in Vienna in 2002 and 2003, holding no fewer than three two-week sessions in each year; and requested it to complete its work by the end of 2003.

27. In resolution 56/260, the General Assembly accepted with gratitude the offer of the Government of Argentina to host an informal preparatory meeting of the ad hoc committee prior to its first session, which was held in Buenos Aires from 4 to 7 December 2001 (see A/AC.261/2 and Corr.1).

28. Pursuant to resolution 56/260, the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption held its first session in Vienna from 21 January to 1 February 2002, at which it began its first reading of the draft convention against corruption and reviewed articles 1-39 of the draft text (see A/AC.261/4).

29. During 2001, countries were briefed on the state of progress towards an international instrument against corruption in a number of meetings, including several of the regional and subregional seminars on ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto. These included meetings with member States of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Hanoi from 8 to 10 August 2001), the Economic Cooperation Organization (Islamic Republic of Iran from 2 to 4 October 2001) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (Burkina Faso from 28 to 30 November 2001). The Centre participated actively in the Global Forum on Fighting Corruption, held in the Hague from 27 to 30 May 2001.

30. At the tenth session of the Commission, the representative of Mexico announced that his Government had offered to host the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. On 26 February 2002, the Government of Mexico informed the Centre for International Crime Prevention that it would withdraw its offer and support the offer by the Government of Thailand to host the Eleventh Congress. On the same occasion, the Government of Mexico expressed its desire to host the signing of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. (Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/260, the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption is to complete its work by the end of 2003.)

V. Prevention of terrorism

31. The Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Centre for International Crime Prevention is charged with both research and technical assistance in the area of terrorism prevention. Owing to lack of resources, emphasis has been placed on research and analysis. A global terrorism survey is in preparation, while the following two publications were issued by the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council in 2001: *The Rule of Law in the Global Village: Issues of Sovereignty and Universality* and Alex P. Schmid and others, *Countering Terrorism through International Cooperation*.

32. The Terrorism Prevention Branch has also made efforts to increase awareness about the scope and nature of international terrorism by undertaking a variety of activities, including the establishment of a roster of experts and a list of web sites related to terrorism.

33. The Terrorism Prevention Branch maintains and updates two databases on terrorism: one dealing with terrorist incidents and the other with counter-terrorist initiatives and developments of a unilateral, bilateral and multilateral nature. Those databases, initiated in September 1999 and February 2000, respectively, contain more than 2,000 events in one case and more than 1,000 items in the other. Summaries of the incidents and counter-terrorist initiatives and developments are made available, on a weekly basis, to the Executive Committee on Peace and Security and to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, both in New York. The incident database also served in the creation of a new aggregate terrorism index, which makes possible both longitudinal and cross-national analysis. In addition, the Terrorism Prevention Branch initiated

work on a database on best practices and lessons learned on the basis of a classification/typology of counter-terrorist measures prepared by the Branch.

34. In general, the Terrorism Prevention Branch serves as a clearing house of information by collecting, processing and disseminating information. That is done on the basis of open source materials and information obtained from Member States and international organizations. On the basis of such information, research was conducted on the 100 most active terrorist and extremist groups, while in-depth studies of terrorist groups have also been commissioned. A special study on the links between terrorism and organized crime is also being concluded.

35. For a conference jointly co-sponsored by the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, a programme of action for the International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: Strengthening Comprehensive Efforts to Counter Terrorism, held in Bishkek on 13 and 14 December 2001, was developed. As one of the measures to combat and prevent terrorism, the programme of action envisages work towards rapid ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments. In addition to the programme of action, the States participating in the conference adopted a declaration, in which, inter alia, they emphasized that terrorism was a complex challenge owing to its links with transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, money-laundering, arms trafficking, computer and other high-technology crimes, as well as other threats, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

36. In its resolution 56/261 of 31 January 2002, the General Assembly adopted the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration, which include a plan of action against terrorism, which mandated the Centre for International Crime Prevention to take steps to raise awareness of the relevant international instruments, encourage States to sign and ratify such instruments and, where feasible, provide assistance in implementing such instruments to States upon request. With this in mind, a project is being designed to promote the signature, ratification and implementation of and accession to the 12 universal legal instruments on terrorism, especially the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (General Assembly resolution 34/146, annex) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (Assembly resolution 52/164, annex). The project is intended to raise awareness at the level of policy makers, to prepare model laws, to promote institution-building and legislative assistance, as well as to strengthen existing arrangements in the field of extradition and mutual legal assistance.

37. Pending consideration by the General Assembly of the proposals to be made by the Secretary-General in response to paragraph 103 of its resolution 56/253 of 24 December 2001, and pursuant to paragraph 19 of its resolution 56/123 of 19 December 2001, the focus of the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention will be on the following main priorities, taking fully into account the Assembly and Security Council resolutions on terrorism, the plan of action against terrorism and recommendations made at the intersessional meeting of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of 15 November 2001:

(a) Assistance to Member States requesting advice and technical assistance in the ratification and implementation of the universal legal instruments against terrorism and in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001;

(b) Coordinating activities with other relevant units of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and with the Global Programme against Money-Laundering and utilizing their existing expertise, for preventing and combating terrorism;

(c) Coordinating activities with other entities of the United Nations system, such as the Office of Legal Affairs and the Counter-Terrorism Committee;

(d) Creating synergies with other international organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

38. In that connection the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice may wish to consider the above-mentioned priority areas with a view to providing further guidance for the future course of action, including strengthening of the resources available.

A. Collecting and disseminating information

39. The Centre for International Crime Prevention continued its efforts to reinforce its capacity and performance in the collection, analysis and dissemination of relevant data and information. In June 2001, it published electronically (in screen and print-optimized formats and formats suitable for further analysis) updates of the responses to the Sixth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, presented by variable and by country (accessible at http://www.odccp.org/crime_cicp_survey_sixth.html). The updated version raised the number of Governments providing official data on police, prosecution, courts, prisons and resource allocation from 75 to 83.

40. The periodic surveys are the primary vehicle used by the Centre for the collection of statistics on crime trends and criminal justice at the national level.

41. The Seventh United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, covering the years 1998-2000, is currently under way. As at December 2001, 65 Governments had submitted data.

42. As mentioned above, a database was designed to monitor terrorism and another focuses on countermeasures. A third database was developed to record flows of global trafficking in human beings.

43. The Centre for International Crime Prevention continued to expand its efforts to disseminate information by electronic means, through its web site at http://www.odccp.org/crime_prevention.html. As an example of that expansion, a new series of publications is now available at http://www.odccp.org/corruption.html#publications. The web site has also been equipped with state-of-the-art multi-media offerings, such as video clips on trafficking (http://multimedia.undcp.org/ramgen/psa_humantrafficking-60-768x576.rm).

44. In 2001 the Centre launched a peer-reviewed academic journal on global crime and criminal justice issues, called *Forum on Crime and Society*, published twice a year in the six official languages of the United Nations. The journal has been well received and has been, for example, widely distributed in the Arab world with the help of the Naif Arab Academy for Security Sciences. The first issue contained articles based on contributions to the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The second issue, dated December 2001, contained articles on transnational organized crime. The forthcoming issue (vol. 2, No. 1, March 2002) will be devoted to the theme of corruption.

B. Global crime trends

45. Research in this area focuses on aspects of public sector corruption and its links with organized crime in its different forms. The Centre collects and analyses data and continually monitors the status of trends in crime, terrorism and corruption worldwide and collaborates with research and scientific bodies in that regard. It conducts a global crime and corruption trend analyses study for which a report with preliminary results is envisaged in 2002.

VI. Technical cooperation activities

A. Strategic orientation

46. In 2001, the Centre for International Crime Prevention supported projects with a total budget value of approximately $6 million (see table 1). Considerable progress was made in initiating and advancing the implementation of projects at the regional and country levels, especially within the framework of the global programmes. A detailed description of the activities implemented in 2001 under the programmes is provided below.

47. It should be noted that the Centre expanded its technical cooperation programme from 5 projects in 1998 to 32 in 2001 (ongoing and planned). The Centre concentrated its technical cooperation activities in areas that complement its legal functions of promoting international legal instruments against transnational organized crime (including smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and trafficking in firearms) and corruption. In March 1999 the Centre launched three global programmes, against transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption, respectively. Those global programmes were revised in the second half of 2001 to incorporate lessons learned in the previous three years.

Table 1
Technical cooperation projects funded by the Centre for International Crime Prevention, 2001

Country or area	*Project*	*Total budget*	*Role of the Centre*
Global	Pre-ratification assistance to the signatories of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime	1 836 250	Funding and executing agency
Global	Database on flows of trafficking in human beings	146 900	Funding and executing agency
Brazil	Measures to combat trafficking in human beings	400 000	Funding and executing agency
Colombia	Preparatory assistance: building an integrity system to prevent corruption	61 698	Funding and executing agency
Hungary	Assessment of corruption in Hungary	175 263	Funding and executing agency
Lebanon	Support for the national anti-corruption strategy	305 551	Funding and executing agency
	Strengthening the legislative and institutional capacity for juvenile justice	754 049	Funding and executing agency
Nigeria	Strengthening judicial integrity and capacity	293 968	Funding and executing agency
Philippines	Coalitions against trafficking in human beings in the Philippines	269 312	Funding and executing agency
South Africa	Mechanisms to counteract domestic violence	660 000	Funding and associate agency
	Measures to counteract organized crime	414 000	Funding and cooperating agency
	Donor coordination in the field of criminal justice	40 000	Funding and executing agency
	Support for the National Anti-Corruption Programme	359 340	Funding and executing agency
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Preventing and controlling economic and financial crime	330 000	Funding and executing agency
West Africa Benin, Nigeria, Togo	Preparatory assistance: development of a project against trafficking in human beings	35 000	Funding and executing agency
Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal	Assessment of transnational organized crime	68 478	Funding and executing agency
Central Asia	Assessment of transnational organized crime	64 636	Funding and executing agency
Eastern Europe (Czech Republic and Poland)	Criminal justice responses to trafficking in human beings	519 348	Funding and executing agency
Total		**5 715 567**	

48. The selection of substantive priority areas is in line with the Centre's mandates and comparative advantages. A balanced approach has been adopted in that selection, pursuant to the deliberations of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its tenth session and the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-sixth session.[3] Accordingly, in accordance with the overall objective of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and the strategies for achieving it, as established by the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005[4] and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/6, Sect. 14), the main priorities for its technical cooperation activities are the following:

(a) Fostering international cooperation and strengthening national capacity-building to combat transnational organized crime. For that purpose, technical assistance activities seek to promote ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto. They also support fulfilling the Centre's current and anticipated mandates arising from the Convention to assist States parties, including the collection and dissemination of information on trends and proven practices, with priority attention on legal and institutional arrangements to address organized crime and provisions for international cooperation;

(b) Fostering international cooperation and strengthening national capacity-building to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children. Priority is given to collecting information on global trends and proven practices. Technical assistance modules are being developed for improved criminal justice responses to trafficking, to include establishment or strengthening of specialized police units against human trafficking as well as inter-agency cooperation between law enforcement, prosecutors and civil society actors in order to improve assistance to and protection of victims and witnesses;

(c) Fostering international cooperation and strengthening national capacity-building as regards anti-corruption policies and measures. Technical assistance is provided to countries in the development of evidence-based and comprehensive anti-corruption policies, including the assessment of trends and existing policies. Modules are also being developed to assist countries to strengthen their investigation and prosecution of corruption cases and to enhance judicial integrity. Collection and dissemination of proven practices will continue to be an important element;

(d) Fostering international cooperation and strengthening national capacity-building in other crime and justice areas, such as juvenile justice, victim issues, prison administration, violence against women, restorative justice and social crime prevention, pursuant to the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration;

(e) Fostering international cooperation and strengthening, upon request, national capacity-building as regards anti-terrorism policies and measures, pursuant to the plan of action against terrorism, for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration, keeping in mind relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. Priority will be given to providing technical assistance for ratification and implementation of and accession to the global legal instruments related to terrorism. The aim is awareness-raising at the level of policy makers, preparation of model laws, institution-building and legislative assistance, as well as strengthening existing arrangements in the field of extradition and mutual legal assistance.

49. Synergy between the Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the two components of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, continued to be strengthened in 2001, through, inter alia, joint assessment missions and joint programming in selected countries.

50. The Centre continued to turn to the United Nations Office for Project Services for the provision of administrative, financial and other input to support the implementation of a number of projects, thus avoiding the need to set up its own costly administrative project infrastructure.

51. The capacity of the Centre to deliver technical assistance has been enhanced at the operational level through its increased representation at the country and subregional levels, through the conversion of selected offices of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme into offices of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/24 of 28 July 1998. The Centre is currently represented at five regional offices—South-East Asia, Southern Africa, North

Africa and the Middle East, West Africa and Central Asia—and three national field offices—Brazil, Colombia and Nigeria.

B. Mobilization of resources

52. The contributions and pledges provided to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund during 2001 (see table 2) amounted to $4,436,637, representing an increase of 49 per cent in contributions in comparison with the previous year. The increase was mainly attributable to a considerable increment in earmarked contributions.

53. The Centre's goal in 2001 was to broaden its donor base and to encourage its current donors to increase their voluntary contributions. An informal donors' meeting was organized on 26 April 2001 and a second is planned for the first quarter of 2002. Since February 2001, and following recommendations of the Office for Internal Oversight Services, the Centre assigned a staff member to work full-time on fund-raising. In 2002, while pursuing the broadening of the donor base, the Centre will aim at increasing the volume of general-purpose contributions, currently corresponding to 10 per cent of the Fund. That increment is of particular importance, if the Centre is to carry out the increased number of mandates and implement the projects recently launched.

54. The figures shown in the figure reflect the pattern of contributions over the past five years and the distribution between general-purpose and specific-purpose contributions. The bulk of the specific-purpose contributions went to the three global programmes and for supporting the pre-ratification assistance activities of the Centre aimed at speeding up the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

C. Global programme against corruption

55. There is consensus that corruption is one of the main obstacles to peace, stability, sustainable development, democracy and human rights across the globe. It endangers the security of societies, the safety of citizens and the values of democracy and morality, jeopardizing social, economic and political development. Reducing corruption requires a broad range of long-term and sustainable efforts and reform. In partnership, the Government, the private sector and the public need to maintain and promote standards of performance that exude decency, transparency, accountability and ethical practice, in line with international standards.

56. The activities of the global programme against corruption focused on:

(a) Providing policy and operational guidance to help Governments upgrade the capacity and performance of their criminal justice systems and personnel to address corruption;

(b) Promoting integrity, efficiency, effectiveness of criminal justice systems with emphasis on the judiciary;

(c) Designing, implementing, monitoring, advising on anti-corruption strategies;

(d) Implementing national integrity action plans;

(e) Conducting comprehensive assessments of corruption and countermeasures (types, level, costs, risks, impact and remedies).

57. A web page is continuously updated as a part of the Programme's web site (www.ODCCP.org/corruption.html).

58. The United Nations Manual on Anti-Corruption Policy is intended to convey a basic understanding of the phenomenon of corruption, its dynamics and impact and reflects the integrated approach of the United Nations to its control.

59. Technical cooperation activities of the global programme against corruption take a modular approach that draws from a broad set of anti-corruption measures or "tools". An extensive collection of tools has been assembled into a "tool kit", which will be updated regularly and refined, based on a systematic, cyclical action-learning process of anti-corruption research. The tool kit is available in hard copy and the tools are regularly refined and expanded on the web site (see para. 57).

Table 2

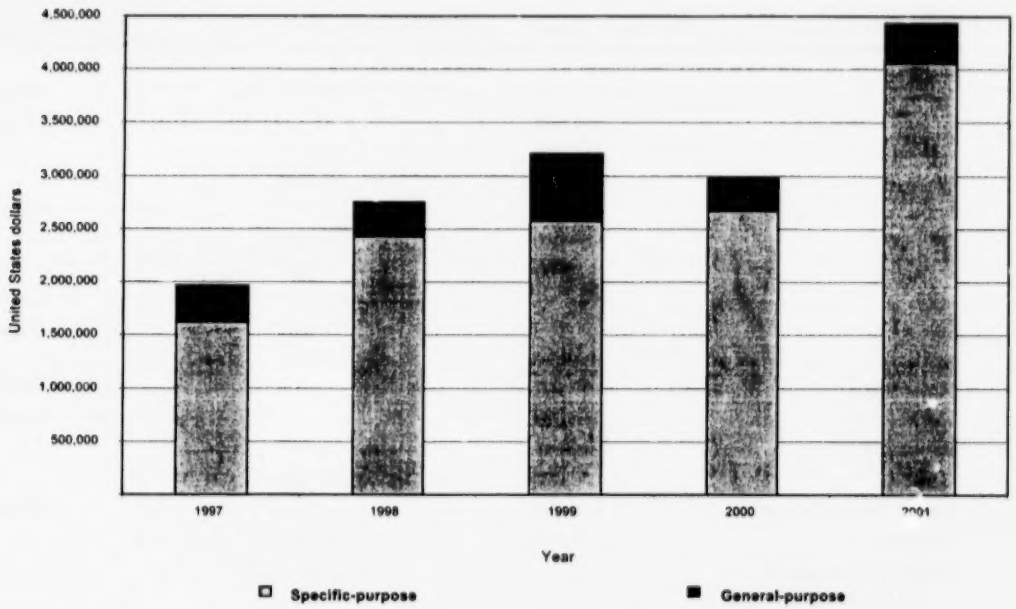
Contributions and pledges to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, 2001

(*United States dollars*)

Country or organization	*Total amount pledged*	*General-purpose funds*	*Special- purpose funds*
Austria	62 195	32 128[a]	30 067[a]
Brazil	300 000	-	300 000[b]
Canada	116 884	-	116 884[c]
Chile	10 000	10 000[a]	-
France	400 479	-	400 479[c]
Greece	30 000	30 000[a]	-
India	3 000	3 000[b]	-
Italy	457 187	187 441[a]	269 746[c]
Japan	200 000	50 000[b]	150 000[b]
Morocco	2 000	2 000[b]	-
Netherlands	399 699	-	399 699[a]
Norway	310 084	-	310 084[c]
Republic of Korea	15 000	15 000[c]	-
Turkey	50 000	50 000[b]	-
United States of America	1 800 000	-	1 800 000[b]
Venezuela	4 084	4 084[b]	-
United States Agency for International Development	276 025	-	276 025[b]
Total	**4 436 637**	**383 653**	**4 052 984**

[a] Not paid.
[b] Paid.
[c] Paid in part.

Figure
Contributions and pledges to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, 1997-2001



60. Within the global programme against corruption are partnerships forged and enhanced and the requisite collaboration is undertaken to plan and implement the programme and to improve coordination of activities within the United Nations system targeting corruption.

1. Country projects

61. The global programme against corruption pays special attention in many of its country projects to the promotion of judicial integrity. The objectives of those efforts are to formulate the concept of judicial integrity and to devise the methodology for introducing that concept without compromising the principle of judicial independence; to facilitate a safe and productive learning environment for the judiciary; and to raise awareness about the importance of judicial integrity both within the judiciary and among its client groups.

62. Responding to government requests, the global programme undertakes various types of field-level activity, maximizing impact and outcome. Through joint seminars and other field-level activities the Programme provides knowledge and receives feedback by which to refine technical advisory services. The number of government requests for technical advisory services is steadily increasing. Projects are under way in Benin, Colombia, Hungary, Lebanon, Nigeria and South Africa and are envisaged in Indonesia the Islamic Republic of Iran, Romania, Sri Lanka and Uganda. It is expected that project activities will involve 12 countries by 2003. Funding for such activities has been received from France, the Netherlands, Norway and the United States.

Colombia

63. A preparatory six-month assistance project, developed in close collaboration with key stakeholders in Colombia during Centre for International Crime Prevention missions to Bogotá in April and June 2001, was launched in November 2001. The aim of the project is to strengthen the rule of law at the sub-national level with strong implications and impact at

the national level. Its objective is to assist the Government of Colombia in increasing the capacity and integrity of local government institutions, in particular through social control mechanisms applied to local governments, in strengthening prosecutorial capacity and in implementing result-based management. In the initial phase, the Centre conducted an institutional assessment of three pilot local government jurisdictions in order to implement anti-corruption policy reforms. The pilot project covered the executive, legislative and prosecutorial domains of the three local governments. A special seminar for national prosecutors, organized jointly with the General Prosecutor's Office and the Embassy of France in Colombia, was conducted to develop a matrix of action and future implementation of institutional reforms. Finally a seminar for all Colombian public officials working at the presidential programme against corruption was carried out in order to enhance their capacity to apply the Centre for International Crime Prevention Anti-Corruption Tool Kit to their local institutional context and develop a regional tool kit with the active participation of Colombian public officials. A full project document for a two-year period is being finalized.

Hungary

64. Within the context of the pilot project, an assessment was carried out by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). The Government of Hungary issued a decree in March 2001 outlining an anti-corruption strategy and the establishment of a National Integrity Steering Committee to advise on an anti-corruption action plan. The Steering Committee is expected to hold its first meeting during the second quarter of 2002 to plan a two-day national integrity meeting with 150 participants representing all key stakeholders. The meeting is expected to endorse an integrity strategy and an anti-corruption action plan. A meeting to discuss best practice will also be organized during 2002. The Government has requested the Centre for International Crime Prevention to design a follow-up project and the intention is to use the action plan recommended by the national integrity meeting as the basis for the next phase of the project.

Lebanon

65. Since the start of the project in 1999, the Government of Lebanon has: (a) established the National Integrity Steering Committee as the coordinating anti-corruption institution; (b) conducted a public awareness campaign; (c) conducted an assessment of corruption in the country; and (d) announced as a next step the development of a national integrity strategy. In January 2001, the National Integrity Steering Committee, with the support of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, organized a broad-based expert meeting to present the findings of the country assessment. Those findings received much attention in the media and a final report is being prepared. Further activities will be supported in consultation with the Government.

Nigeria

66. The project on strengthening judicial integrity and capacity, signed by the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the Attorney-General of Nigeria in September 2001, is aimed at strengthening the rule of law, both at the national and the subnational levels. The objective of the project is to assist the Government of Nigeria in increasing the capacity and integrity of the justice system, in particular that of the judiciary. By doing so, the project will also contribute to the development of the prerequisites for the successful recovery of assets that have been diverted under past military regimes and the effective prevention of transfers of funds of illicit origin. The Centre organized a first federal integrity meeting for chief justices, during which three pilot state and pilot courts were identified (Lagos, Borneo and Delta) and a methodology on how to assess types, levels, causes and cost of and remedies for corruption was endorsed for testing in the pilot states. Subsequently, a joint global programme against corruption/Transparency International mission went to Nigeria to launch the three state pilot projects and selected an independent research institute to assess the integrity, effectiveness and efficiency of the judiciary within the three pilot states.

South Africa

67. A project document entitled "Support to the national anti-corruption programme" was finalized by the Centre for International Crime Prevention and

reviewed by all key stakeholders in South Africa. The project, signed in early March 2001, is designed to assist the Government of South Africa in its efforts to prevent, detect and fight corruption and to promote integrity, transparency, accountability and the rule of law. During the first half of 2001, a review was conducted of all existing anti-corruption assessments and reports, preparations were made to carry out a comprehensive corruption assessment and the Government was finalizing the establishment of an independent, broad-based national integrity forum. A Centre for International Crime Prevention mission went to Pretoria to launch the other project activities, including: (a) preparation of a national anti-corruption strategy and action plan; (b) drafting of anti-corruption legislation; (c) enhancement of the capacity for prevention, investigation and prosecution of corruption in selected departments of the public sector; (d) assisting specialized investigating and prosecutorial units within the criminal justice system; and (e) assisting in the development and implementation of anti-corruption initiatives in two selected provinces of South Africa.

D. Global programme against trafficking in human beings

68. The Centre for International Crime Prevention expanded its technical assistance activities under the global programme against trafficking in human beings, carried out in cooperation with UNICRI. The main objectives of the programme are: (a) to examine the involvement of organized criminal groups and the routes and methods used by traffickers in human beings; (b) to strengthen criminal justice responses; (c) to improve cooperation among law enforcement agencies and other relevant institutions; and (d) to improve protection and support systems for victims and witnesses. Within the United Nations context, the programme focuses, from a global perspective, on the criminal justice component of trafficking and on crime prevention, complementing the work of other entities of the United Nations system that are concerned with other aspects of human trafficking. The programme promotes a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach to preventing and combating human trafficking. Given the complex nature of trafficking in persons, securing the expertise of other organizations and ensuring complementarity of action is essential.

69. The adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols addressing trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants by the General Assembly in November 2000 acted as a catalyst to the work of the programme. The definitions set forth in those instruments have been accepted broadly by international organizations that are concerned with trafficking issues. In several countries, the provisions of the Convention and those protocols have already served as the reference guide for law reform and have offered a framework for the formulation of regional and national anti-trafficking action plans.

70. At present, technical assistance projects are being carried out or developed in countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America and will concern different aspects of trafficking.

1. Research and assessment

71. UNICRI is currently conducting research and assessment activities targeting the practices and the role of organized criminal groups in trafficking in human beings. It has developed a number of research tools aimed at generating data on recruitment practices, costs and debts, travel routes, exploitation, criminal organizations and connivance and corruption. Instruments have also been developed for use in interviewing victims, government officials and non-governmental organizations and a further instrument assists researchers in analysing government case files.

72. Partnerships are sought with the network of institutes and organizations cooperating with the Centre for International Crime Prevention and UNICRI, in particular the Australian Institute of Criminology and the United Nations University, but also with government agencies, local research institutions and individual scholars. The field office of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in Tashkent supported implementation of the project of the International Organization for Migration involving trafficking in women and children from Tajikistan.

73. Analysis of selected national laws prohibiting trafficking in children in the light of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol is being carried out by the Centre.

2. Political events

74. Major achievements in 2001 include the formulation of a political declaration and an action plan against trafficking in human beings for the member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), agreed upon by a meeting of experts from West African countries organized in Accra by ECOWAS in cooperation with the Centre for International Crime Prevention. The action plan was submitted through the ECOWAS ministerial meeting and subsequently adopted by the annual summit of ECOWAS heads of State in December 2001. The plan of action commits ECOWAS member States to urgent action against trafficking in human beings in 2002-2003 and sets achievable goals and objectives. The action plan calls for States to ratify and fully implement international instruments of ECOWAS and the United Nations. It commits States to adopt laws criminalizing trafficking in human beings and to build the necessary administrative structures and calls for new special police units to combat trafficking in human beings and training for police, customs and immigration officials, prosecutors and judges. Working in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and other representatives of civil society, ECOWAS member States will take responsibility for protection of trafficking victims. Through their task force or agency on trafficking in persons, States intend to coordinate and monitor the ongoing implementation of the plan of action at the national level and to report on a biannual basis to the ECOWAS secretariat.

75. In October 2001, the Government of the Philippines launched a strategic action plan for a national coalition against trafficking in human beings. The formulation of a national anti-trafficking strategy was a major achievement of the work of the Inter-Agency Executive Committee established as part of a pilot demonstration project on coalitions against trafficking in human beings in the Philippines under the global programme against trafficking in human beings. Main features of the national action plan include early ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, a special bill against trafficking in persons; strengthened investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases through specialized databases, specialized law enforcement units and improved police-prosecutor cooperation; training for law enforcers, prosecutors, social workers and frontline officers as well as staff of embassies and consulates; improved support for victims and the protection of witnesses in cases of trafficking in persons; comprehensive public awareness campaigns on the subject; continued inter-agency coordination; and strengthened international cooperation, including the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements.

3. Country projects

Brazil

76. A project on assessing the routes and modalities used by organized criminal groups, improving law enforcement responses and victim support, has been developed at the request of the Government of Brazil, in cooperation with the country office of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. It was signed by the Government in December 2001 and activities will begin in early 2002.

Czech Republic and Poland

77. A project concerning trafficking to and from Eastern Europe has started in the Czech Republic and Poland to consider the need for law reform, strengthened investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases and assistance to victims at the local level. In the Czech Republic, the structure for a database to strengthen investigation of trafficking cases has already been set up. Activities are being carried out in close cooperation with relevant non-governmental organizations.

Philippines

78. The pilot project in the Philippines included awareness-raising and training sessions for law enforcement officers of different regions of the country and workshops on improved police-prosecutor cooperation. It offered support in the development of a trafficking database and resulted in the creation of an inventory of relevant legislation, the formulation of guidelines for investigation and the testing of a new training curriculum for consular staff. While the assessment component is still ongoing, UNICRI, in cooperation with local experts, has carried out a study examining the experiences of victims and non-governmental organizations and a report was prepared by the Australian Institute of Criminology on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants

between the Philippines and Australia. UNICRI has conducted research into and produced a report on the involvement of organized criminal networks in the smuggling of Filipinos into Italy. Research is ongoing into the trafficking of Filipinos to Japan and Malaysia. Assessments were carried out in cooperation with the regional centre for the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in Bangkok and the Australian Institute of Criminology. Follow-up activities are under consideration, including developing specific measures for victim and witness support.

4. Future projects

79. A project on the assessment of trafficking flows and countermeasures, including training components for local professionals and inter-country cooperation in Benin, Nigeria and Togo has been prepared on the basis of assessments carried out in cooperation with the ODCCP Regional Office in Dakar and the UNDCP Office in Lagos. The project is expected to be signed shortly. In cooperation with the Governments of Italy and Nigeria, UNICRI has prepared a project proposal addressing trafficking in minors and young women from Nigeria to Italy. The project, including information-gathering and practical assistance to be provided through the active participation of non-governmental organizations, is expected to start soon.

80. A number of additional project proposals have been drawn up and submitted to donor countries and institutions, including for Slovakia and Viet Nam.

81. In addition, the global programme has initiated work on a database to include data from multiple sources on global trends, cross-national routes, volume of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, victims and offenders of trafficking and responses of criminal justice systems to such criminal activity.

5. Other developments

82. The global programme maintained a close working relationship with other United Nations entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Organization for Migration, the International Labour Organization, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the European Union, the European Council, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and ECOWAS.

83. The video clip on trafficking in women produced by ODCCP as a public service announcement was first shown during a seminar on human trafficking in Catania in the framework of the High-Level Political Signing Conference in Palermo, Italy, and has been widely distributed free of charge. It raised considerable interest among broadcasting stations worldwide, including in countries where trafficking originates. By the end of 2001, major national and regional television stations and networks from at least 35 countries had shown the video clip, with dubbing in numerous local languages. The clip has also been shown in public locations, for example, on information screens in underground stations and other public places. In view of the strong response received, another public service announcement, focusing on trafficking for slave labour, including of children, has been produced and released.

84. An exhibition on modern slavery, organized by the global programme in cooperation with a French non-government organization, the Committee against Modern Slavery (CCEM), was displayed in the United Nations Office at Vienna from November to December 2001. Around 45 posters by artists from across Europe showed different forms of slavery such as domestic labour, prostitution, child labour and forced marriage, aimed at raising awareness about modern-day slavery and trafficking in human beings.

85. Funding or pledges of assistance for the activities and projects of the global programme against trafficking in human beings have been received from the Governments of Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the United States. The Government of Australia has made in-kind contributions.

E. Global programme against organized crime

86. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime provides the normative framework and orientation for the global programme. It seeks to facilitate the exchange of information on patterns and trends in transnational organized crime and on successful practices for combating it and to provide technical assistance through advisory services

and field projects. Funding for activities of the programme has been received from France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States.

1. Assessment

87. The global programme against organized crime has conducted a pilot study on organized criminal groups in 12 countries and one subregion. Information has been collected on 30 transnational organized criminal groups most active in the countries and the subregion. Information provided by UNICRI about five other countries (Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Ukraine) has also been added. The instruments to collect data have been modified in consultation with UNICRI, the Falcone project of the European Union and the European Police Office (Europol). The new instruments will be tested for collecting information on organized criminal groups in two regional projects, in Central Asia and West Africa. In parallel, the global programme is carrying out an assessment of the national legislation on organized crime as well as the organization of police, prosecutors and judicial authorities working to combat organized crime. An analysis of 14 countries has already been undertaken. The comparative analysis will provide an opportunity to study national policies and measures for combating organized crime.

2. Tool kit of best practices

88. With the help of a group of experts, a tool kit of best practices will be developed, which should improve the quality and effectiveness of technical assistance to be delivered by the Centre.

3. Technical cooperation projects

Assessment of transnational organized criminal groups in Central Asia

89. The aim of the project is the establishment of a network of data providers in the field and the collection of relevant information on the most prominent organized criminal groups operating within the region and preparation of the countermeasures adopted by Governments in order to better cope with the phenomenon. The information collated will be compiled and analysed in a report on organized criminal groups in Central Asia.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

90. In 1999 a project was launched in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to tackle economic and financial crime through strengthened legal provisions and the establishment of a specialized police unit. The project is implemented in close collaboration with the Italian Guardia di Finanza. Despite the difficult situation in the country, the project has achieved two of its four objectives. More specifically, the amendments proposed by the Centre for International Crime Prevention to the Constitution, the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedural Code are now before the Parliament for final approval.

Assessment of transnational organized criminal groups in West Africa

91. The project addresses the phenomenon of transnational organized criminal groups active in selected countries of West Africa—Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal—and their transnational dimension. The project will provide a systematic collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data and information on organized criminal groups operating in the region and a practical strategic analysis leading to the identification of the most appropriate control measures to combat and prevent organized crime.

4. Training of criminal justice practitioners

92. One of the measures to strengthen criminal justice responses is training for law enforcement personnel, including prosecutors, investigating magistrates and customs personnel. The global programme has developed a multimedia seminar on fighting organized crime following the provisions of the Palermo Convention that has been successfully tested in four countries, Colombia, Croatia, Peru and Slovakia. The seminar examines best practices to fight organized crime and corruption in relation to police and prosecutors' investigations, international cooperation, collaboration with and protection of witnesses, prevention of organized crime and anti-organized crime legislation. Participants are requested at the end of the seminar to carry out a needs assessment to strengthen their countries' anti-mafia policies and measures. The pilot seminars were favourably evaluated by participants and will be replicated in

several other countries, including in Central America (Guatemala).

5. Prevention of organized crime

93. As stated in article 31 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, prevention activities are among the core activities Members States should undertake in order to fight against transnational organized crime. A project proposal has been prepared for the replication of the Sicilian renaissance strategy in Mexico. The project would provide advice on how to mobilize civil society against local organized criminal groups to complement the adoption of domestic laws and the reinforcement of international cooperation in the fight against organized crime.

F. Projects on crime prevention and criminal justice reform

94. The Centre continued to implement the project to strengthen the institutional capacity for juvenile justice in Lebanon. The project supported the reform of legislation on juveniles and the establishment of systems for the monitoring, follow-up and reintegration of juveniles upon release. A follow-up project was designed by the Centre and approved by the Government, and subject to the availability of donor contributions, will be launched in April 2002. It aims at improving services and detention conditions for female juveniles in Lebanon.

95. A juvenile justice sector project proposal for Egypt has also been designed. Subject to donor interest, the project will be implemented in 2002.

96. In crime prevention, the Centre continued to provide technical support for the implementation of a project aimed at reducing violence against women in South Africa.

VII. Coordination of activities with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network

97. During the tenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network took the lead in organizing, within the support of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, the Workshop on Prison Populations: Facts, Trends and Solutions, held in Vienna on 10 May 2001. The Workshop recommended that similar technical and thematic workshops be organized to take place during the sessions of the Commission as part of its regular programme of work.

98. Specific examples of cooperation between the Centre and the institutes of the Programme network during the period under review are as follows: (a) UNICRI has been fully involved as a major partner in the implementation of the global programmes; (b) the Australian Institute of Criminology cooperated in the implementation of a Centre/UNICRI project on trafficking in human beings in the Philippines through the provision of the services of an expert; and (c) the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control released a statistician to the Centre to assist with the development and analysis of survey materials and databases.

99. At the tenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Centre for International Crime Prevention convened a meeting with the directors of the institutes of the Programme network to review current modalities of collaboration and discuss future joint ventures, including those related to the promotion and implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice and its action plans, once the latter had been approved by the Commission and adopted by the General Assembly.

VIII. Strategic management by the Commission of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme

100. At the ninth session of the Commission, the need to maintain the Commission's initiative in providing strategic direction of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme was stressed on the basis of a review of efforts undertaken. In keeping with the tradition of continuing intersessional activities with the full involvement of the members of the bureau and the regional groups, the bureau met on 13 July 2001 to discuss the issue of

preparations for the Intergovernmental Open-Ended Expert Group Meeting on Corruption. The bureau also discussed the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration for consideration by the intersessional meeting.

101. On 28 August 2001, the extended bureau met to discuss the outcome of the informal consultations on terrorism led by Tajeddine Baddou, Acting Chairman of the Commission, as well as preparation for the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption. At that meeting, the role of the extended bureau was also discussed. Its role was considered important in ensuring the participation of the regional groups in the discussions relating to the intersessional activities of the Commission.

102. On 6 and 28 September 2001, the extended bureau met to follow up on the ongoing consultations towards the finalization of the draft plans of action, together with the draft resolution related thereto. The extended bureau also discussed the recent developments in New York related to terrorism and agreed that an intersessional meeting should be convened in order to brief Governments on recent actions on terrorism and to lay the foundation for future work of the Commission in that field.

103. In preparation for the eleventh session of the Commission, the extended bureau held a meeting on 29 December 2001, focusing on the organization of the thematic discussion on item 3 of the provisional agenda of the Commission, entitled "Reform of the criminal justice system: achieving effectiveness and equity", as well as the implementation of the plan of action against terrorism. At that meeting, the working method of the Commission regarding intersessional meetings was discussed and the extended bureau agreed that, in order to ensure transparency, the Secretariat should circulate the outcome of the meetings of the extended bureau, which would be available in English only, given their informal nature, with the principal objective of ensuring a free flow of information on issues related to the work of the Commission.

104. The fourth intersessional meeting of the Commission was held from 3 to 5 September 2001 in preparation for the resumed tenth session of the Commission, which was held on 6 and 7 September 2001. The meeting finalized the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration.

105. The fifth intersessional meeting was held on 15 November 2001. The objective of the meeting was to consider the implementation of the plan of action against terrorism; to discuss the role of the Commission and that of the Centre for International Crime Prevention in connection with combating terrorism; and to consider the implications of recent resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

106. The sixth intersessional meeting was held on 14 January 2002 to discuss the revised agenda and proposed timetable for the eleventh session of the Commission, as well as to finalize the substantive and organizational arrangements for the preparation of the thematic discussion, following past practice at previous sessions of the Commission.

IX. Programme questions

107. In its resolution 56/254 A of 24 December 2001, the General Assembly approved the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, which includes the programme of work for programme 12 (Crime prevention and criminal justice). The programme of work for the biennium 2002-2003 provides for a modest increase in the resources allocated to programme 12, mainly to enable the implementation of new mandates relating to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto. The increase includes the establishment of five new posts, three at the Professional level and two at the General Service level, accompanied by a reduction in resources for general temporary assistance.

108. Proposals for revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 are to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session. The Assembly has stressed the importance of consultations with and contributions for the respective sectoral bodies in reviewing and improving the quality of the medium-term plan and its revisions. The proposed revisions to programme 12 (E/CN.15/2002/15) will be before the Commission for its review. The purpose of the proposed revisions is to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted

by intergovernmental organs and international conferences since the adoption of the medium-term plan. The views of the Commission on the proposed changes will be transmitted to the Committee on Programme and Coordination at the time of its review of the Secretary-General's proposed revisions to the plan.

109. The Office for Internal Oversight Services carried out a triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme Coordination at its thirty-eighth session on the evaluation of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. The report on the triennial review (E/AC.5/2001/5) was considered by the Committee at its forty-first session. In February 2001, the Office carried out an inspection of the programme management and administrative practices in the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention. The report on the inspection is contained in document A/56/83.

X. The way ahead

110. Over the past years the Centre for International Crime Prevention has expanded in many respects. It has at the same time transformed itself into a centre of expertise, specializing in global crime and criminal justice issues. Its normative functions have broadened from supporting the development and promotion of standards and norms to also supporting the negotiation and follow-up of legally binding international instruments. The new legal instruments will also create further mandates and tasks for the Centre in policy analysis and technical assistance. As explained above, political developments have resulted in an increased and immediate demand for some of its core activities. For a full exploitation of the Centre's potential, significant improvements in both regular and extrabudgetary resources are imperative. For its part, the Centre will seek to improve its performance through further integration of functions and greater synergy with the work of relevant units of UNDCP. It will also increasingly seek the cooperation with other entities of the United Nations system, as well as with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 10* (E/2001/30/Rev.1), part two, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I.

[2] Ibid., draft resolution II.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/56/16).

[4] Ibid., *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/55/6/Rev.1).